

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Offices
155 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01852

Tel: 978-674-4324
Fax: 978-937-7609
E-Mail: jhall@lowell.k12.ma.us

Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D.
Superintendent

To: Dr. James Hall, Chief Operating Officer
From: Daroth Yann, Interim Safety Coordinator
Date: June 16, 2023
Re: William and Christine Florence

William and Christine Florence of 70 Alcott St, Lowell, MA 01852, pending acceptance by the Lowell School Committee, wish to donate \$4,900.00 worth of LifeVac anti-choking devices to Lowell Public Schools for use in each of its schools and buildings.

I request that the School Committee vote to authorize this donation. If approved, a letter of thanks will be sent to William and Christine Florence for donating these life-saving devices.

LifeVac Use

In a choking emergency, if the victim is **unable to cough or speak** -

1. Call out for Help, Dial 911, and Attempt Heimlich Maneuver.
 - (If the victim is able to cough or speak, stay with them, allow them to try to cough to clear the object on their own. If they lose the ability to cough or speak immediately take action as above.)
2. If the Heimlich Maneuver is unsuccessful after 3 attempts of 5 abdominal thrusts, OR if the victim becomes unresponsive, use **LifeVac**.
 - LifeVac can be used while the victim is standing, sitting, or laying down, providing that head and neck can be supported in a straight position, with a semi-firm surface behind their head.

LifeVac device use:

1. Setup Device - Insert appropriately sized mask (adult or pediatric) into the yellow base of the LifeVac unit with a firm twisting motion. Mask should completely cover and seal around the bridge of the nose (narrow part of mask) down to the area between the lower lip and chin with the mouth open.
2. **PLACE** mask over nose and mouth.
3. Hold mask firmly to face with one hand, and **PUSH** handle down with the other hand to compress the unit.
4. **PULL** handle upward with a short, swift tug, keeping mask securely in place.
5. Roll victim onto their side and check their mouth AND the unit for any debris, remove if safe to do so.
6. Return victim to their back and repeat Steps 2-5 until blockage is removed, or up to 5 times. IF THE BLOCKAGE IS NOT REMOVED AFTER 5 ATTEMPTS, START CPR.

Training Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3l0jxPtXH1o>

Peter Connolly MD.

03/30/23

Medical Consultant

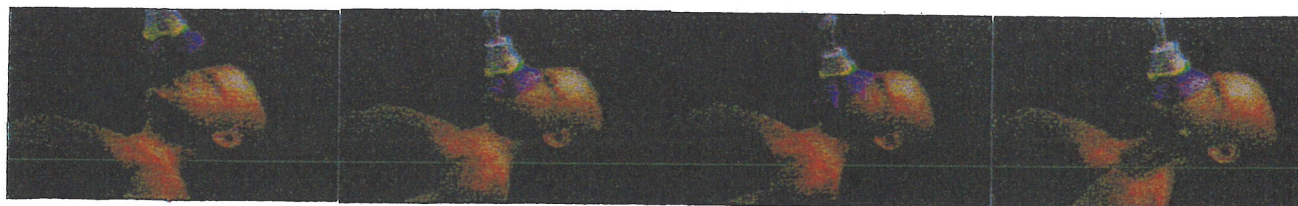
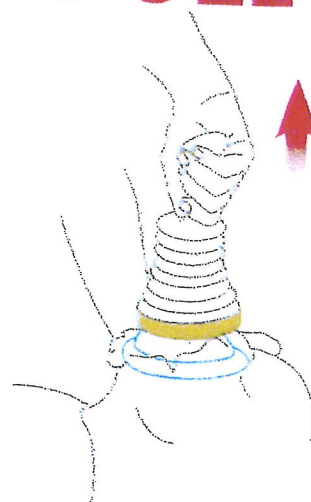
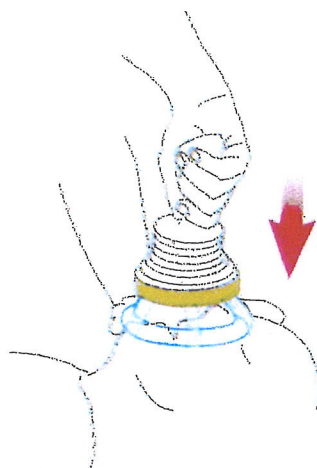
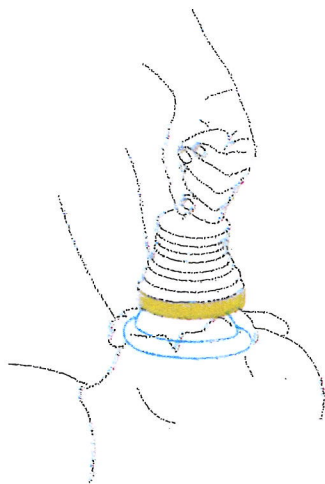
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LifeVac is simple to use. Anyone can use it.

It's as easy as placing over the nose & mouth, pushing down, & pulling up

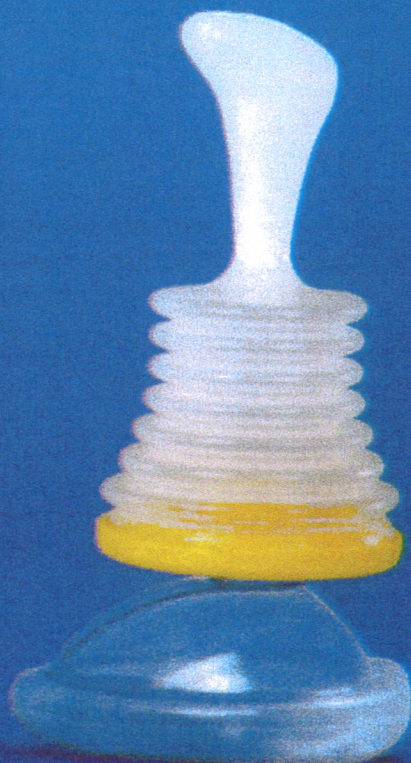
EASY AS

1 **PLACE** 2 **PUSH** 3 **PULL**



LIFEVAC

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Stop Choking and Save Lives

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One kit covers your entire family for life. Only \$69.95. If you use it, we are honored to replace it for free

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Schools
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It's our mission to stop the #1
cause of accidental death in
schools. We are willing to offer a
20% discount on the school kits.

No option is not an option! All children deserve a chance in a choking emergency including those in a wheelchair, with scoliosis brace, spina bifida, broken bones and many other disabilities.

To help your school, we are offering you **20% off the School Kit**. Just enter your info below and you will receive your code in your email instantly.

American Red Cross

"If a patient who is choking becomes unresponsive, carefully lower the patient to a firm, flat surface, send someone to get an AED, and summon **additional resources** if appropriate and you have not already done so. Immediately begin CPR with chest compressions.

 redcross.org

encourage him or her to continue coughing until he or she is able to breathe normally. If the patient can't breathe or has a weak or ineffective cough, you will need to perform abdominal thrusts to clear the obstruction. To perform abdominal thrusts, stand behind the patient and while maintaining your balance, make a fist with one hand and place it thumb-side against the patient's abdomen—just above the navel. Cover the fist with your other hand, and give quick, upward thrusts.



Continue delivering abdominal thrusts until the object is forced out; the person can cough, speak or breathe; or the patient becomes unconscious.



If you cannot reach far enough around the patient to give effective abdominal thrusts or if the patient is obviously pregnant or known to be pregnant, give chest thrusts. To perform chest thrusts: from behind the patient place the thumb side of the fist against the lower half of the sternum and the second hand over the fist. Then give quick, inward thrusts.

If a patient who is choking becomes unresponsive, carefully lower the patient to a firm, flat surface, send someone to get an AED, and summon additional resources if appropriate and you have not already done so. Immediately begin CPR with chest compressions.

As you open the airway to give ventilations, look in the person's mouth for any visible object. If you can see it, use a finger sweep motion to remove it. If you don't see the object, do **not** perform a blind finger sweep, but continue CPR. Remember to never try more than 2 ventilations during one cycle of CPR, even if the chest doesn't rise.

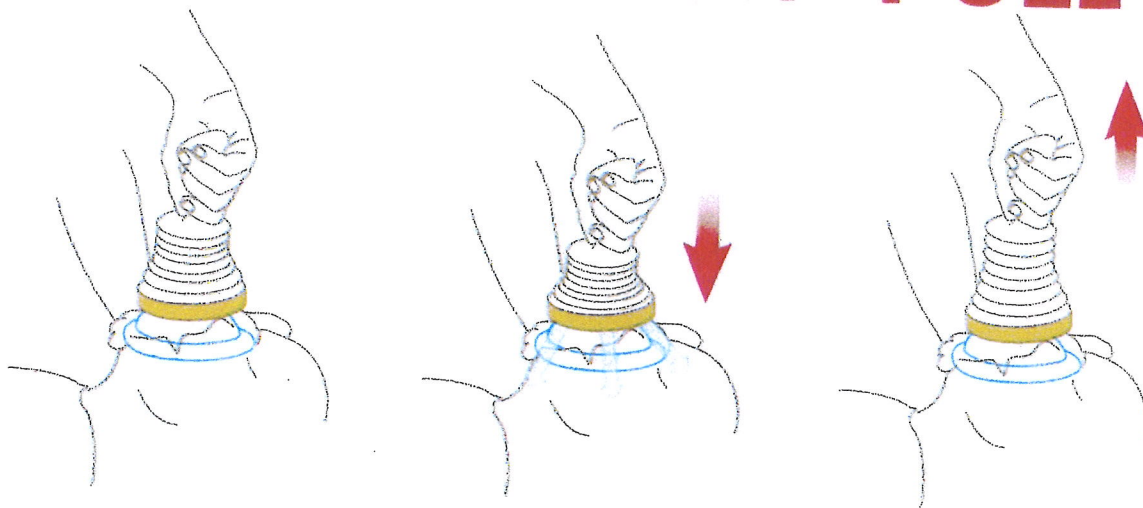
Continuing cycles of 30 compressions and 2 ventilations is the most effective way to provide care. Even if ventilations fail to make the chest rise, compressions may help clear the airway by moving the blockage into the upper airway where it can be seen and removed.

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EASY AS

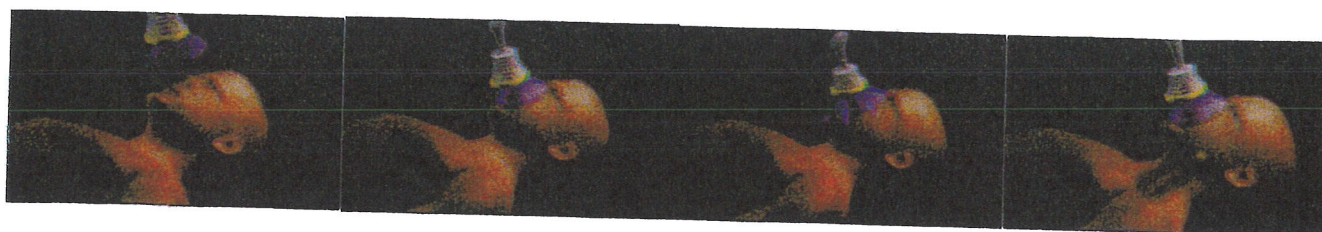
1 PLACE 2 PUSH 3 PULL

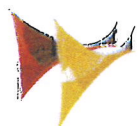


Protect yourself

Protect your family

- Choking is the 4th leading cause of accidental death
- A leading cause of death under the age of 14 and over 65
- One child dies every 5 days
- Over 5,000 choking deaths per year in the US alone
- Thousands choke to death in their own HOMES every year
- Extremely dangerous for individuals in wheelchairs
- Particularly dangerous within the Neurological community





LIFEVAC

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

FOLLOW CURRENT CHOKING PROTOCOL AND DIAL 911



Insert mask into the unit with a firm twisting motion while applying pressure. **Make sure that you check mask to ensure it's attached to the unit. The stem of the mask DOES NOT need to be completely inserted into the unit.**



Place mask over nose and mouth, **holding chin upwards. MASK MUST BE HELD FIRMLY OVER NOSE AND MOUTH WITH HAND.**



Holding mask in place with one hand and chin held upwards, push handle down with other hand to compress unit.



Once handle is depressed, **pull handle upward with a short, SWIFT tug while holding mask firmly in place.**



Roll person on side and sweep the mouth to clear any debris. **Also check unit for debris. Repeat steps as necessary. If LifeVac is used refer to the Information Page Literature (Indications For Use) section for additional action.**



IF NO SPONTANEOUS RESPIRATION IS NOTED, THEN RETURN TO CURRENT CHOKING PROTOCOL AND START CPR.

LIFEVAC KEY ELEMENTS

- ❖ There are over 5,000 choking deaths a year in the US alone
- ❖ One child dies every 5 days from a choking tragedy
- ❖ LifeVac is the **only non-invasive** airway clearance device
- ❖ LifeVac is the only airway clearance device that with third-party independent testing, (vacuum verification, durability, pressure verification, environmental testing)
- ❖ LifeVac in the USA is **registered with the FDA** as a Class 2 Suction Apparatus. It is EXEMPT from pre-market clearance. "Class II are EXEMPT from the premarket notification (510K) process. Therefore, are only required to register their establishment and list their product." LifeVac is properly registered with the FDA and will not receive "approval" as a Class II suction device.
- ❖ LifeVac is designed with a **one-way valve system** to prevent the airway obstruction from being pushed further into the victim. On the downward compression, all air is vented outside the unit, not through the mask This creates a one-way suction to remove the lodged food or object.
- ❖ LifeVac has been published in 12 medical journals (**6 peer-reviewed**).
- ❖ LifeVac has documented & recorded **684** post-market clinical reports on lives saved worldwide.
- ❖ LifeVac has been used by Emergency Services, Nurses, Support workers and lay people. The airway clearance device is implemented in fire departments, police departments & rescue squads all over the US and worldwide.
- ❖ There have been no adverse effects when LifeVac was administered.
- ❖ LifeVac can be used on adults and children. LifeVac can be utilized starting at 22 pounds based on the mask manufacturer's general guidelines for a proper fit. Manufacturers must create specifications where their tests show the product functions optimally.
- ❖ One unit provides safety for the entire family. LifeVac home kit comes equipped with 3 masks (1 adult, 1 pediatric & 1 practice mask) We provide customers with a practice mask so you can become familiar with how the rescue device works before an emergency situation occurs.
- ❖ The LifeVac device is a one-time use-only airway clearance device. If the LifeVac device is used in a choking emergency we request to be contacted through our website to fill out a "Life Saved" report. We will make contact and send a new unit free of charge.

LIFEVAC KEY ELEMENTS

- ❖ The LifeVac device will **NOT** have to be replaced unless used to save the life of a choking victim. Only the masks will need to be replaced every 2-3 years. Replacement masks can be purchased on our website.
- ❖ LifeVac is simple to use and can be used by anyone
- ❖ LifeVac can also be administered on oneself
- ❖ Training is available online at www.lifevac.net.

The Good Samaritan Law in Massachusetts, Bystander Protection and Responsibility

In short, Massachusetts has adopted several Good Samaritan laws, including G.L. c. 112, section 12V which states that any "person who, in good faith, attempts to render emergency care . . . and does so without compensation, shall not be liable for acts or omissions, other than gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct, resulting from the attempt to render such emergency care."

This statute won't protect someone from being sued, but the likelihood of a successful suit is greatly reduced. The standards of misconduct and negligence are considerably higher and should afford some security from liability for well-intended acts of kindness.

This principle generally prevents negligence suits from being filed against an individual who makes a good faith effort to administer aid in a crisis.

But, in Massachusetts particularly, your responsibilities and protections as a civilian bystanders are greater than those in most other states.